

Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

A Petition For An Extension Of Time is enclosed with the required extension fee.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency in fees or any other fees in connection with the above-identified patent application to our Deposit Account No. 23-0920/SSMP.

Claims 1-14 were pending prior to this Amendment.

Claims 1-14 have been canceled, because they are identical to claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,358,051.

New claims 15-17 have been added and are pending for consideration.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

The objections to the claims on page 2 of the Office Action are believed to be mooted by the foregoing amendments.

In response to the objections to the drawings, Applicants point out that the drawings are identical to the formal drawings submitted for U.S. Patent No. 6,358,051. A duplicate set of drawings will be provided upon request.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are believed to be mooted by the amendments.

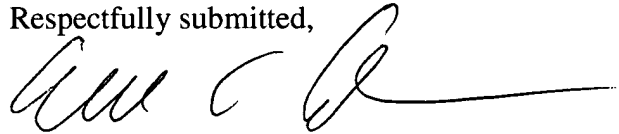
The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are believed to be mooted by the amendments. Neither Kibblewhite et al nor Moore et al disclose an apparatus for determining for applying a preload to a screw in a dental implant system. Dental implant

systems include one or more "fixtures" that are adapted at one end for osseointegration into a jawbone, and are adapted at the other end to receive a supporting member for a dental prosthesis. Neither Kibblewhite nor Moore discloses a tool for applying a preload to a screw in a dental implant system that includes an ultrasonic transducer disposed toward the one end for measuring stress within a screw of an implant system, which enables the measurement of the preload on the screw as the screw is being tightened. This is an important development, since the patent teaches that the stability of a screw joint in a dental implant system depends on the correct preload on the screw.

The Primary Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney in order to expedite this application to allowance, if the preceding does not already place the above-identified application in condition for allowance.

Dated: June 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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